

# Best Funding Practices for Watershed Management

## California Biodiversity Council Watershed Work Group

Presented September 20, 2000

### GENERAL WATERSHED PRINCIPLES

#### **Comprehensiveness**

- Consider whole drainage basin (headwaters to basin outlet)
- Address all significant factors affecting the resource(s)
- Use an ecosystem-based approach (address environmental, economic and social benefits)
- Recognize diversity of watershed in State
- Work across boundaries (land ownership/jurisdictional responsibilities)

#### **Commitment and Leadership**

- Get commitment and leadership from those who live and work in the watershed
- Provide State and regional management support and commitment
- Achieve a common vision and collective set of objectives at the watershed level

#### **Process and Communication**

- Recognize that process is important as outcome
- Use a stake-holder based process (inclusive from beginning to end)
- Provide for an on-going iterative process with many opportunities for input

#### **Integration of Interdisciplinary Science and Local Knowledge**

- Use the best available scientific information
- Incorporate local knowledge and common sense approach
- Acknowledge watershed assessments as a necessary first step

#### **Monitoring and Adaptive Management**

- Monitor outcomes (include social and technical components)
- Take long-term approach
- Adapt management based on monitoring results
- Provide for flexibility in the watershed assessment and monitoring approach

#### **Cooperation and Coordination**

- Foster local interest and participation
- Promote federal/State/local government/tribal/public/private partnerships
- Comply with existing laws
- Utilize a combination of voluntary and regulatory approaches
- Seek equitable ways to distribute responsibilities and funding

#### **Community-based**

- Emphasize local initiatives and energy while acknowledging larger public trust interests
- Do not employ a top-down approach
- Consider scale dependencies
- Recognize beneficial resource utilization